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LE MESURIER, *Mayor.*

A Common Council holden in the Chamber of the Guildhall *of the City of* London, *on* Friday *the* 20th *Day of* December 1793.

The Committee appointed the 17th Day of *January* laſt, to conſider of the proper Means to bring about a commodious Entrance into the City at *Temple Bar*; and alſo to conſider if any and what Improvement can be made in the Paſſage on *Snow Hill*, did this Day deliver into this Court a Report in writing, under their Hands, which being read, it is Ordered, That the ſame be printed, and a Copy thereof ſent to every Member of this Court.

R I X.

To the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the City of London *in Common Council aſſembled.*

WE, whoſe Names are hereunto ſubſcribed of your Committee, appointed on the 17th Day of *January* laſt, to conſider of the proper Means to bring about a commodious Weſt Entrance into the City at *Temple Bar*; and alſo to conſider if any, and what Improvement can be made in the Paſſage on *Snow Hill*, do certify, That we have taken into our ſerious Conſideration the almoſt perpetual Obſtruction of both thoſe Avenues, as well as the great Inconvenience and Danger, and the frequent Accidents occaſioned thereby: And being ſatisfied that the widening and improving the

ſaid

ſaid Streets, will be of the greateſt Advantage to the Public; we have ſeveral Times viewed the Premiſes, and cauſed different Plans to be prepared for effecting the ſame.

THE Improvement beyond *Temple Bar*, of the great Communication between *London* and *Weſtminſter*, may be accompliſhed by taking down the Gate, and ſetting back all the Houſes on the South-ſide of the *Strand*, from *Thanet Place* to *Milford Lane*, ſo as to make the Street fifty Feet wide in a ſtrait Line, except oppoſite St. *Clement*'s Church, where it will be neceſſary to make a circular Bend to the Southward, in order to preſerve the Width in that Part; or it may be made in a more extenſive and compleat Manner, by taking down the Gate, the Church, and all the Houſes on the North-ſide of the *Strand*, and the South and North-ſides of the *Butcher Row* and *Wych Street*, as far as the Weſt-end of the Church Yard, and building a Row of handſome Houſes to form the North-ſide of a Triangle, in the Baſe whereof the Church may be re-built, and encloſed with Iron Rails ſo as to become a beautiful Object to Paſſengers: And if this Deſign ſhould be adopted, we apprehend a conſiderable Improvement may be grafted thereon without much additional Expence, by a Street from the North-ſide of this Triangle, in a direct Line through *Serle Street* to *Lincoln's Inn Fields*.

THE Improvement of the Paſſage at *Snow Hill* being the other great Communication between *London* and the new Squares and Buildings North Weſt of the City, may be effected by erecting an Arch croſs the North-end of the *Fleet Market*, raiſing the Ground at the Eaſt and Weſt-ends of ſuch Arch, and making a new Street upon a level from *Newgate Street* to the Top of *Holborn Hill*, without obſtructing the preſent Avenue to the Market, or the Paſſages up *Holborn* or *Snow Hill*, as propoſed in the Year 1790, to the Committee of City Lands, by the Rev. Mr. *Pridden*, who has ſeveral Times attended us, and ſuggeſted various Improvements on his original Deſign, for which we think the Public much indebted to him; but as it will be attended with a very large Expence, and be liable to Objections from the Owners of Contiguous Property, we are not inclined to propoſe the raiſing the Bottom to a level with the Tops of the Hills, however deſirable ſuch an Improvement might be; and although we are ſatisfied ſuch would be the Plan if the whole Ground was vacant.

WE therefore turned our Thoughts to the beſt Improvement of the Paſſage with as much Eaſe in the Declivity as may be produced by

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by an Alteration of the Pavement, and that we think very conſiderable; and for this Purpoſe two Methods preſent themſelves, one to re-build and ſet back in a Direction, nearly circular, all the Houſes on the Weſt and South-ſides of *Snow Hill*, from *Turnagain Lane* to the Corner of *Fleet Market*, ſo as to Front a large Triangular Opening, nearly ſimilar to the upper End of the *Old Bailey*; and the other to leave the Houſes on *Snow Hill*, and the Street before them in their preſent State, and make a new Street forty Feet wide behind thoſe Houſes, in a direct Line from the Corner of *Turnagain Lane* to the Bottom of *Holborn Hill*.

We are aware that the Expence of theſe Improvements will far exceed the Funds of the Corporation, which are at this Time overcharged in conſequence of the *New Compter*, and other Buildings and Improvements, lately made at their Expence, within their own peculiar Diſtrict: But when we conſider the Magnitude of the Objects and their Advantages to the Members of both Houſes of Parliament, and to all who have Buſineſs in Parliament, or the Courts in *Weſtminſter Hall*, the *Bank*, the *Eaſt India Houſe*, or any of the Public Offices, as well as to the Inhabitants of *London*, *Weſtminſter*, &c. in general, we were not diſcouraged from proceeding to the Eſtimates.

We thereupon cauſed Particulars to be prepared of the Freeholders and Occupiers of all the Houſes affected by either of the propoſed Alterations, and were deſirous of knowing the derivative Claims of all Parties intereſted therein; but we found it impoſſible without an Act of Parliament to trace the ſeveral Tenancies and Sub-Tenancies, which are varying every Day, and even the Enquiry has a Tendency to multiply them, and thereby encreaſe the general Expence; we therefore contented ourſelves with the Rents at which the Premiſes are charged to the Poors Rate and Houſe Tax, (taking the higheſt Rate where the Premiſes are charged to thoſe Taxes at different Rents,) and although we are aware that thoſe Rates are below the Rents actually paid, we think that an Eſtimate of the whole at thirty Years purchaſe upon the Rents charged, may afford a reaſonable Compenſation for all Claims, many of the Houſes being nearly worn out; and taking it for granted, that in the Act of Parliament to be obtained, proper Clauſes will be inſerted, that in Caſes where Juries may become neceſſary for want of Agreement, the Expence of ſuch Jury ſhall fall on the Claimant, if he does not recover more than ſhall be previouſly offered: And alſo Clauſes that thoſe Claimants who ſhall retain part of their Property ſhall, in eſtimating the value of the

the Part to be purchaſed, make a reaſonable Allowance for the Melioration of the Remainder, in conſequence of the propoſed Improvement, as was provided in the Acts for re-building the City after the great Fire in 1666.

TEMPLE-BAR.

SOUTH-SIDE.

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
The twenty-eight Houſes neceſſary to be purchaſed for making the Improvement on the South-ſide of the *Strand*, are rated at *per Annum*	1,146	0	0
Which at thirty Years purchaſe amount to —	34,380	0	0
Deduct for Four Hundred Feet of Ground to be Lett for building, at twenty Shillings per Foot, Four Hundred Pounds, which at thirty Years purchaſe — — — — — —	12,000	0	0
Expence of the Improvement on the South-ſide of the *Strand* — — — — —	22,380	0	0

NORTH-SIDE.

The forty-two Houſes on the North-ſide of the *Strand*, the Eaſt-end of St. *Clement's Church Yard*, and the South-ſide of the *Butcher Row*, neceſſary to be purchaſed if the Improvement be made on the extended Plan, are rated at *per Annum* — — — — —	1,129	0	0
Forty Houſes on the North-ſide of the *Butcher Row* and *Wych Street*, Ditto — —	1,201	0	0
Twelve Houſes on the North-ſide of St. *Clement's Church Yard*, and South-ſide of *Wych Street*, Ditto — — — —	561	0	0
	2,891	0	0
Which at thirty Years purchaſe amount to	86,730	0	0
Taking down and re-building the Church	10,000	0	0
	£ 96,730	0	0

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
Deduct for Five Hundred Feet of Ground to be Lett for building at forty Shillings per Foot, One Thouſand Pounds, which at thirty Years purchaſe	30,000	0	0
Expence of the Improvement, if made on the North-ſide of the *Strand* — — —	66,730	0	0

SNOW HILL.

The Fifty-one Houſes forming the Weſt and South-ſides of *Snow Hill*, the Eaſt-ſide of the *Fleet Market* to *Turnagain Lane*, and the North-ſide of that Lane, are rated at *per Annum*	1,273	0	0
Which at thirty Years purchaſe amounts to	38,190	0	0
Deduct for Six Hundred and Thirty Feet of Ground to be Lett for building, which at thirty Years purchaſe is valued at — — —	14,550	0	0
Expence of the Improvement on the circular Line	23,640	0	0

NEW STREET.

In order to make the new Street from the Corner of *Turnagain Lane* to the Bottom of *Holborn Hill*, the Property neceſſary to be purchaſed according to the Report of the Surveyor, is rated at Three Hundred and Fifty-three Pounds a Year, which at thirty Years purchaſe, makes the Expence of that Improvement — —	10,590	0	0

Your Committee are of Opinion that the Improvements recommended in this Report (the one in the City of *Weſtminſter*, the other in the City of *London*) ought not to be conſidered as partial or local Benefits to either City, but as great and public Accommodations to all Ranks and Deſcriptions of Perſons; and conſequently that the Expence ſhould fall upon the Public.

They cannot but expreſs their Wiſh that the larger Plan may be adopted at *Temple Bar*, as being a more noble, extenſive, and permanent Improvement, and more congenial with the Dignity and Conſequence of this Country.

THEY are likewiſe of Opinion that a new Street from the Corner of *Turnagain Lane*, to the Bottom of *Holborn Hill*, will be a more beneficial Accommodation to the Public than any Alteration that can be made on *Snow Hill*.

ON theſe Grounds they earneſtly recommend that an Application to Parliament be made as ſoon as poſſible, ſubmitting the ſeveral Plans and Calculations, and praying for ſuch Powers and Parliamentry Aid as may be neceſſary to carry the Plans, that ſhall be adopted, into Execution: And that the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, and the Members of this Court, who are in Parliament, may be deſired to give the Meaſure their utmoſt Support.

ALL which we ſubmit to this Honourable Court, this 17th Day of *December* 1793.

Midſd. Young,
Jas. Renat Syms,
Saml. Goodbehere,
John Moffatt,
Wm. Sutherland,
James Brewer.
William Pickett,
John Boydell,
Thomas Skinner.
Rich. Brewer,
J. Nichols,
John Bailey.

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20. Dec. 1793

Report of the Committee
as to Improvements by
taking down Temple
Bar &c

Title Office

Mr Johnson